



## US Department of Labor Mine Safety and Health Administration

### Metal and Nonmetal Mine Injuries Drop As MSHA Steps Up Site Enforcement Events, Compliance Assistance

The Mine Safety and Health Administration has jurisdiction over 12,395 metal and nonmetal mines nationwide. The Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 requires MSHA to inspect each underground mine at least four times and each surface mine at least twice annually. From CY 2000 to CY 2003, Metal and Nonmetal Mine Safety & Health (MNM) enforcement program site events per mine increased by 16 percent. At the same time compliance assistance has become an integral part of every mine visit. From reviewing a mine's compliance and safety performance prior to an inspection to conducting outreach programs to discuss trends and provide training, MNM is using all available resources to achieve a vision shared throughout the mining community: to send every miner home at the end of each work day in a safe and healthy condition.

MNM	CY 2000	CY 2001	CY 2002	CY 2003	Percent change, CY 2000-2003
Enforcement program site events per mine	2.5	3.3	4.7	2.9*	+16%
Mining fatalities	47	30	42	26	-45%
Total mining injuries	9,600	8,449	7,374	6,853*	-29%
Number of miners	240,450	232,770	218,148	215,133*	-11%

\*4th Quarter, preliminary

The metal and nonmetal mining industry has reduced fatalities and injuries markedly. MNM fatalities have declined 45 percent between CY 2000 and CY 2003. MNM mining injuries declined by 29 percent in the same period. More metal and nonmetal miners went home to their families in a safe and healthy condition at the end of each working day.

#### The Triangle of Success

Influencing this success is MSHA's use of all the tools provided in the 1977 Act to help create a culture of prevention throughout the mining industry. These tools -- enforcement, education and



training, and technical assistance -- are known as the MSHA "Triangle of Success." New avenues for training, the exploration of innovative technologies, and unprecedented Alliance Agreements are creating a network of effective partnerships. Among its new initiatives in CY 2001-2003, MSHA's new Small Mines Office has so far visited the operators of more than 2,300 mines employing five or fewer miners to offer compliance assistance.

## Rates of MNM mining injuries substantiate safety progress

Rates of injury are recognized as the most reliable index of safety progress. The metal and nonmetal mining industry achieved substantial reductions in injury rates across the board from CY 2000 to CY 2003.

MNM	CY 2000	CY 2001	CY 2002	CY 2003	Percent change, CY 2000-2003
<b>Incident rates per 200,000 employee-hours</b>					
<b>Lost-time injuries</b>	2.85	2.64	2.57	2.44*	-14%
<b>All injuries</b>	4.45	4.10	3.86	3.64*	-18%

It is important to note that serious violation rates have dropped in parallel with the serious (lost time) injury rates – a sign of true success in reducing hazards that cause both violations and accidents that result in injury.

